

receiving a request from a user reflecting a travel itinerary, wherein the request includes information identifying an originating location and a destination;

analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel, wherein the analyzing step includes identifying any intermediate locations in a route between the originating location and the destination;

determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request;

determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries; and

generating a report, based on the analysis and determinations, including a value for each alternative itinerary reflecting a savings in travel costs in comparison with the travel itinerary reflected by the request.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the report includes the travel itinerary specified in the request, each of the alternative itineraries, the value for each travel itinerary, and the savings in travel costs is based on a difference between the value for the travel itinerary specified in the request and each of the alternative itineraries.

11. (Twice Amended) A method for providing information regarding savings associated with travel alternatives comprising the steps, performed by a processor, of:

receiving a request from a user reflecting a travel itinerary;

analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel;

determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request;

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determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries;  
generating a report reflecting the analysis and determinations;  
sending at least one price-to-beat request to a plurality of service providers reflecting information on the travel itinerary with a value associated with the determined value for the travel itinerary specified in the request and the determined value for each of the alternative itineraries;

receiving a response from each of the service providers with information on a service provider travel itinerary and a value of the service provider travel itinerary, wherein the travel itinerary from each of the service providers may be the same or comparable, according to each respective service provider, to the user's travel itinerary or one of the alternative itineraries;

reconfiguring the value of the travel itinerary specified in the request and the values for each of the alternative itineraries based on the responses from each of the service providers; and

providing a report based on the analysis, determination and reconfiguration including an indication of the reconfigured values of the travel itinerary and the alternative itineraries.

12. (Twice Amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for causing a computer to perform a method for providing information regarding savings associated with travel alternatives, the method comprising the steps of

receiving a request from the user reflecting a travel itinerary, wherein the request includes information identifying an originating location and a destination;

analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel, wherein

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the analyzing step includes identifying any intermediate locations in a route between the originating location and the destination; and

determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request; determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries; and generating a report, based on the analysis and determinations, including a value for each alternative itinerary reflecting a savings in travel costs in comparison with the travel itinerary reflected by the request.

13. (Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the report includes the travel itinerary specified in the request, each of the alternative itineraries, and the value for each travel itinerary, and the savings in travel costs is based on a difference between the value for the travel itinerary reflected by the request and each of the alternative itineraries.

22. (Twice Amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for causing a computer to perform a method for providing information regarding savings associated with travel alternatives, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from the user reflecting a travel itinerary;

analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel;

determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request;

determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries;

sending at least one price-to-beat request to a plurality of service providers reflecting information on the travel itinerary with a value associated with the determined value for the

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travel itinerary specified in the request and the determined value for each of the alternative itineraries;

receiving a response from each of the service providers with information on a service provider travel itinerary and a value of the service provider travel itinerary, wherein the travel itinerary from each of the service providers may be the same or comparable, according to each respective service provider, to the user's travel itinerary or one of the alternative itineraries;

reconfiguring the values of the travel itinerary specified in the request and the values for each of the alternative itineraries based on the responses from each of the service providers; and

providing a report including an indication of the reconfigured values of the travel itinerary and the alternative itineraries.

23. (Twice Amended) A computer system for providing information regarding savings associated with travel alternatives comprising:

a buyer interface for producing a request from a user reflecting a travel itinerary, wherein the request includes information identifying an originating location and a destination; and

a server for analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel, for determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request, for determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries, and for generating a report, based on the analysis and determinations, including a value for each alternative itinerary reflecting a savings in travel costs in comparison with the travel itinerary reflected by the request,

wherein analyzing the travel itinerary includes identifying any intermediate locations in a route between the originating location and a destination.

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24. (Amended) The computer system of claim 23, wherein the report includes the travel itinerary specified in the request, each of the alternative itineraries, and the value for each travel itinerary, and the savings in travel costs is based on a difference between the value for the travel itinerary specified in the request and each of the alternative itineraries.

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33. (Twice Amended) A computer system for providing information regarding savings associated travel alternatives comprising:

- a buyer interface for producing a request from a user reflecting a travel itinerary;
- a server for analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel, for determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request and for determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries; and
- a trader interface for receiving price-to-beat requests from the server and for providing a response from a trader with information on a trader travel itinerary and a value of the trader travel itinerary, wherein the travel itinerary from the trader interface may be the same or comparable, according to the trader, to the user's travel itinerary or one of the alternative itineraries,

wherein the server is configured to reconfigure the value of the travel itinerary specified in the request and the values for each of the alternative itineraries based on the response from the trader and generate a report including an indication of the reconfigured values of the travel itinerary and the alternative itineraries.

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34. (Twice Amended) A computer system for providing information regarding savings associated with travel alternatives comprising:

- a buyer interface for producing a request from a user reflecting a travel itinerary;
- a server for analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel, for determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request and for determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries; and
- a supplier interface for receiving price-to-beat requests from the server and for providing responses from a plurality of service providers with information on service provider travel itineraries and respective values of the service provider travel itineraries, wherein each of the travel itineraries from the supplier interface may be the same or comparable, according to each of the plurality of service providers, to the user's travel itinerary or one of the alternative itineraries, wherein the server is configured to reconfigure the value of the travel itinerary specified in the request and the values for each of the alternative itineraries based on the responses from the service providers and generate a report including an indication of the reconfigured values of the travel itinerary and the alternative itineraries.

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36. (Twice Amended) A computer system for providing information regarding savings associated with travel alternatives comprising:

- an interface means for producing a request from a user reflecting a travel itinerary, wherein the request includes information identifying an originating location and a destination;
- and

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a serving means for analyzing the travel itinerary to determine a set of alternative itineraries comparable to the travel itinerary specified in the request based on selected rules associated with travel, for determining a value for the travel itinerary specified in the request, for determining a value for each of the alternative itineraries, and for generating a report, based on the analysis and determinations, including a value for each alternative itinerary reflecting a savings in travel costs in comparison with the travel itinerary reflected by the request,

wherein analyzing the travel itinerary includes identifying any intermediate locations in a route between the originating location and a destination.

37. (Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the report includes the travel itinerary specified in the request, each of the alternative itineraries, and a difference between the reconfigured value for the travel itinerary specified in the request and each of the alternative itineraries.

38. (Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the report is produced geographically on a map, wherein the map includes the travel itinerary specified in the request, at least one of the alternative itineraries and the reconfigured value for each travel itinerary included in the map.

39. (Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the report includes the travel itinerary specified in the request, each of the alternative itineraries, and a difference between the reconfigured value for the travel itinerary specified in the request and each of the alternative itineraries.

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40. (Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the report is produced geographically on a map, wherein the map includes the travel itinerary specified in the request, at least one of the alternative itineraries and the reconfigured value for each travel itinerary included in the map.

41. (Amended) The computer system of claim 34, wherein the report includes the travel itinerary specified in the request, each of the alternative itineraries, and a difference between the reconfigured value for the travel itinerary specified in the request and each of the alternative itineraries.

42. (Amended) The computer system of claim 34, wherein the report is produced geographically on a map, wherein the map includes the travel itinerary specified in the request, at least one of the alternative itineraries and the reconfigured value for each travel itinerary included in the map.

44. (New) A method for providing travel alternatives, comprising:  
receiving, from a user, a request including a travel itinerary including an origination location, a destination location, and a first value associated with the itinerary;  
determining, without user intervention, a set of alternate itineraries, each alternate itinerary being associated with an alternate value and a route between an alternate location and either the origination or destination location; and

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providing a report including a indication of the first value, the alternate value for each alternate itinerary, and a savings value for each alternate itinerary reflecting a difference between the first value and the respective alternate value.

45. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the first value reflects a cost of travel between the origination and destination locations.

46. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the first value further includes a cost of lodging.

47. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the set of alternate itineraries includes at least one alternate itinerary that is associated with a pre-configured travel package based on prior negotiations with at least one provider of travel resources.

48. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein each alternate value is equal to or less than the first value.

49. (New) A method for providing travel alternatives, comprising:  
receiving, from a user, a request including a travel itinerary including an origination location, a destination location, and a first value associated with the itinerary;  
determining, without user intervention, a set of alternate itineraries that each include a route between an alternate location and either the origination or destination location;  
determining an alternate value for each alternate itinerary; and

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providing a report including a geographical map that contains:

a graphical representation of the origination location, destination location, and each alternate location,

a graphical representation of a first path between the origination and destination locations and a corresponding cost of travel for the first path, and

a graphical representation of an alternate path between each alternate location and either the origination or destination locations and a corresponding cost of travel for each respective alternate path.

50. (New) A method for providing travel alternatives, comprising:

receiving, from a user, a request including a travel itinerary including a travel route between an origination location and a destination location;

determining, without user intervention, a set of alternate itineraries that each include an alternate route between an alternate location and either the origination or destination location; and

providing a report to the user such that the user may visually inspect a map including a graphical representation of the route between the origination and destination locations and the alternate routes, and a travel cost for each corresponding route.

51. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the travel cost for each route is presented

adjacent to the graphical representation of the respective route on the map.

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